

U. S. Department of Agriculture.

FIELD DIARY

Biological ^{OF} Survey
Elk Ranch, at
Mr. _____

Jackson, Wyo.

(Official title.)

1915

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James Wilson

Secretary of Agriculture.

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Biological Survey Elk Ranch Jackson, Wyo.

The needs of the elk ranch have been somewhat registered but with care and thought this can be made one of the most interesting and attractive spots in the country.

It will soon be a good automobile road through the Yellowstone Park and should be considered a part of our great Park system.

It is ideally located for a demonstration of the practical value of raising elk for market and home use and for stocking preserves and national forests.

Public Land -

40. NE⁴ SE⁴ Sec. 11 T. 41 N R. 16 W.
80. SW⁴ SE⁴ + SE⁴ SW⁴ Sec. 13 " "
40. SW⁴ SE⁴ Sec. 22, " "

Tracts included in the area of Elk Ranch and vacant land that someone will buy & make trouble over. Should be withdrawn at once and purchased or proclaimed game refuge.

The SE boundary of refuge should be extended from corner of ^{sections} 26, 27, 34, 35 half a mile S. to the quarter corner between 34 & 35, and straight east 2 miles to range line and north $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles to private claim, thence west $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to top present line of refuge.

This takes in a lot of good winter range for elk where several hundred winter each year and do not come down to be fed.

None of this tract is agricultural land
or even will be or fit for settlement.
It is too steep for stock to graze
and the timber is not much good
on the cold slopes. It should be
withdrawn and made a part of elk ranch
or else put into Nat. Forest.

The line really should go east to
join the Nat. Forest.

A few deer winter ⁱⁿ ^{herd} on this tract
and it would make an ideal little
elk summer range for a ^{domestic}
elk herd. + a few moose ^{buffalo + antelope} + Mt. Sheep.

A few blue grouse live on top of this
tract but there is a good opening
on it.

A fence is greatly needed along the road to save the grass on the butte, which is now included in the elk ranch - (all except 80 acres that should be added). The warm slopes of this ridge are the favorite ground of the main herd that is being fed and they are rarely covered with snow.

At present the grass is grazed close in summer by the town horses and cattle which water at the big springs. About 2 miles of fence would keep stock out of this area and cut off all watering places so they would not range out this way from town. Mr. Nowlin estimates that this range would be equal to 75 tons of hay a year but it would also save many calves & weak elk that die here because they do not get down to the hay. It would also protect the big springs from

being disturbed by stock and campers
and travel along the road as
now a side road leads down to
them. These are wonderful waterbird
refuges in winter and breeding
grounds in summer & should be
given as full protection as possible.

This fence would cost about
460 dollars - - -
and should be made of two rails and
two wires on back stakes, nearly to
touch stock. This is the type of fence
on the east of the ranch.

The timber should be gotten out
this winter.

Wires & staples about 60

Posts & poles 400.

Can be built by the 2 men on the place.

Paint -

The roofs of all the buildings on the place are badly in need of painting. No paint has ever been put on anything on the ranch. -

The buildings, house, office, shop, and barn are all of smooth peeled logs or hewed logs with corners & casings & good shingle roofs but they would look better & last much longer if well painted. It would only be necessary to pay the materials as two men are kept on the place & could do all the painting between other work.

Teams - There is one good team on the Elk Ranch but another team is greatly needed. The meadows are run down and yield about half the hay they should. They need plowing and seeding and some need only disking but 2 horses can not break or disc this tough sod. Another team is needed in haying and in hauling hay to the elk.

The initial cost of a suitable team would be about 400. and a harness about 50

Machinery -

2 mowers

2 rakes

1 seed drill

1 breaking plow

Haying machinery

Mrs. Miller has a lot of machinery on the place that could be bought at a low rate.

Saddle Horse.

Mr. Nowlin wants a saddle horse & is willing to buy it himself but wants to know if it is all right to keep it on the place. He needs it to ride over the place & to town & to look after the elk & would use it mainly on official business.

He also wants to keep a cow & wants to know if this is all right.

There is abundance of pasture on the place that is not utilized by elk or for hay so the keeping of a cow and horses is of no detriment to the place.

Zabara.

At present Mr. Nowlin has two excellent young men working on the ranch. They have been haying up to the present time and are now harvesting the oats and when these are stacked they will be about through the summer work. There is fall plowing to be done and a lot of painting ought to be done on the place. Coyotes are numerous and they ought to trap for a month to get them drawn out before the elk come down.

Elk feeding ought to keep them busy most of the winter and they could be used to help count elk over the valley. This is mainly left to forest rangers but they think the BS ought to do some of it.

There is a lot of fencing to
be done in spring and the buck-
stick should be made this winter
~~and~~ the men could help in
getting out and hauling rails &
sticks.

There is plenty of work on
the ranch for two good men
& two good teams all the
year and besides all that
Mr. Nowlin can do.

Bird refuge -

The wonderful opportunity for an all the year around bird refuge & breeding & wintering grounds is little realized on the elk ranch. The many very large springs are always open and full of ducks and geese & other birds.

By feeding and planting duck foods in the ponds and marshes more birds can be maintained.

A few wild geese nest here in the marshes. Swans used to stop here & could easily be raised.

There are other large springs & ponds down by Mr. Lucks place below Jackson.

Flaps for Elk Ranch

Flaps & bait

Stout

Piper should be in field to
get trappers started as long as
necessary and then out in Feb.
or March to stir them up on
hunting pups.

- He wants a note of formal
contract with trappers so they
will feel responsibility & as a
certificate of good faith.

Wants more traps &
must have bait.

United States Department of Agriculture,

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTS AND DISBURSEMENTS,

Washington, D. C.

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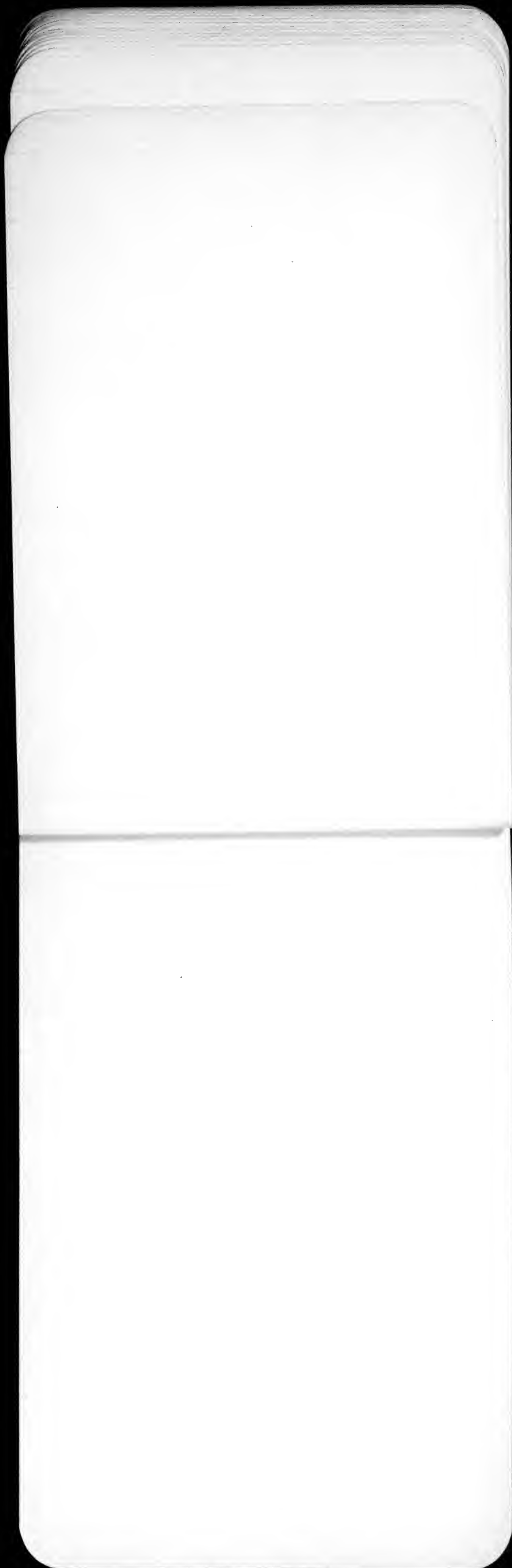
Wants

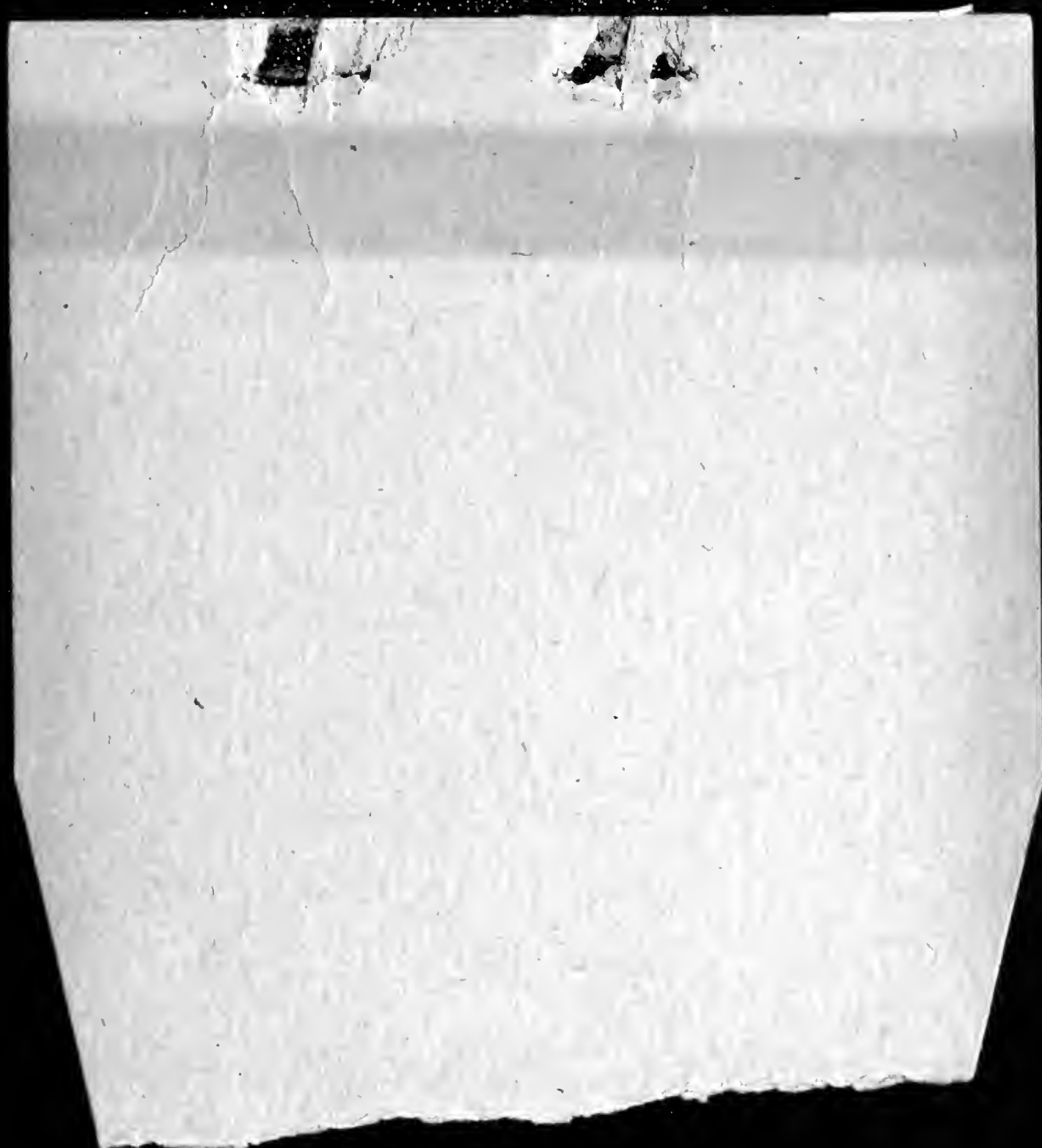
Piper wants canvas bags and
Naphtholine (folded) furnished
in Texas & etc & keep skins for months
until sent in. After arrival,

Skulls in Sugar sacks & keep out
naggots -

Cooperation with Forest Service
in trapping wolves & coyotes -
Furnishing traps & bait & information
for inspectors -

over





Sept. 30/24.